



7th Group undergoes change of command in Kuwait on Army's 228th birthday

by Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Nelson 7th Transportation Group

The 7th Transportation Group (Composite) conducted a change of command ceremony at a Kuwaiti port June 14.

Brig. Gen. Jack Stultz, 143rd Transportation commander, passed the colors from Col. James Veditz to Col. Thomas Baker.

The Army's newest vessel, USAV Spearhead, gleamed in the background as soldiers from 7th Group represented its nearly 4,000 assigned or attached soldiers. The 7th Group includes the 6th, 10th, 11th, 24th, and 106th Transportation Battalions in Kuwait and Iraq supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Many soldiers participating in the ceremony had just returned safely from across Kuwait and Iraq.

As the eighth bell sounded at precisely 7 a.m., signaling the changing of the watch over the organization, the commanders issued orders for the soldiers dressed in their Desert Battle Dress Uniforms, Kevlar helmets, and weapons to execute with precision. The soldiers in this formation "are all heroes, each and every one" said Stultz, the host commander.

"These soldiers before you have accomplished reception, staging, and onward movement of soldiers and equipment at an unprecedented rate," said Veditz. "It was an honor and a privilege to serve alongside you, and I am proud to have served as your commander during these historic times."

Veditz recalled another change of command that took place in 1998 in Mannheim, Germany when he relinquished command to Baker. At that ceremony it was also Command Sgt. Maj. Paul Nelson who secured the colors as it was this day in Kuwait. Veditz then thanked his soldiers for their dedication and hard work as well as the memories that would last him a lifetime. Veditz's command tenure began less than 90 days before Sept. 11, 2001.

Baker ended his remarks by thanking the soldiers for their historic accomplishments and a promise to uphold the great traditions of the 7th Transportation Group.

Many happy returns for Detachment 2, 430th Transportation Company

by Staff Sgt. Stephen Grieco

2174th Garrison Support Unit Journalist

Members of Detachment 2, 430th Transportation Company, bow their heads in prayer during a welcome home ceremony at the Anderson Field House June 17. The 430th

returned to Fort Eustis after being deployed to a U.S. Air Force base in Saudi Arabia where they helped to deliver food, medical supplies, and humanitarian aid throughout the region. The ceremony was short and sweet — various commanders gave them a quick ‘thank you’ just hours after their plane landed. After the ceremony, 430th reservists were given passes so they could travel home and reunite with loved ones. They will return to their home station in Baltimore, Md., after conducting a demobilization process here. "It was a challenge and it was fun," said Sgt. Dawn Mosier. She and 30 fellow soldiers came home earlier than expected because their base closed. "We stayed behind and helped the Air Force take down the last tents," Mosier recalled. Seven 430th soldiers volunteered to continue their deployment and are still supporting operations in the Persian Gulf.

Army G-3 awarded Ancient Order of St. Christopher medal during Eustis tour

*by Spc. Zack Shelby
Wheel Editor*

During the 1998 Transportation Corps week, the chief of transportation approved the Military Order of St. Christopher to recognize individuals who made significant contributions to the Transportation Corps.

The Military Order of St. Christopher was established with two levels, the Ancient Order and the Honorable Order.

Lt. Gen. Richard A. Cody, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3, U.S. Army, received the Ancient Order of St. Christopher medal, the more distinguished of the two medals, from Maj. Gen. Robert T. Dail, Fort Eustis commanding general, Tuesday at Wylie Theater, U.S. Army Transportation Center.

The Ancient Order is reserved for those few individuals whose careers embody outstanding achievements and accomplishments in the spirit, dignity and sense of sacrifice and commitment epitomized by St. Christopher.

The ceremony opened with remarks about Cody from Dail.

Dail said that the presentation of the medal to Cody signifies his accomplishments as an Army leader in the Transportation Corps.

"It's my pleasure to invest you with the St. Christopher medal in front of these great American soldiers and civilians," Dail said to Cody.

Dail added that he hoped Cody would always think favorably of the Transportation Corps.

After Cody was presented with the Ancient Order of St. Christopher medal and a plaque, it was his turn to speak.

"This is a walk down memory lane for me," Cody said. Cody talked extensively about his earlier days as a young officer with advice and guidance aimed at an audience that included many junior officers from the Transportation Officer Basic Course.

“Nothing happens on the battlefield until something moves it,” Cody said to the TOBC students.

Cody said he felt well-trained for his duties at his first duty station after graduating from the T-School.

“I know it’s the same now,” Cody said of the quality of the T-School.

Cody also talked about the current state of the Army and the near future.

“This is the busiest I’ve seen the Army in my 31 years of service,” Cody said.

He added that today’s Army is the best America has had in a half century.

“Soldiers know why they are in the Army and why they raised their hand,” Cody said.

He told TOBC students that their soldiers are going to want their leadership.

“As long as you care about your soldiers, they will do everything for you and make you look good, even when you’re wrong,” Cody said. Cody said he believes America will be fighting the global war on terrorism for at least another three or four years, which would affect many TOBC students. He added that Transportation Corps captains who came back from the field should share their experiences with lieutenants of the Transportation Corps.

Cody closed his remarks and the ceremony by saying that he learned a great deal from his experiences here in the Transportation Corps.

“God bless you and thank you very much,” Cody said to the audience as the ceremony came to a close.

Being presented the Ancient Order of St. Christopher medal was the highlight of a busy visit to Fort Eustis which also included visits to the Aviation Applied Technology Directorate, Apache Training Facility, Military Traffic Management Command, Deployment Training Facility, Vessel Bridge Simulator and Crane Simulator and the Third Port/Landship before his final stop at the T-School.

Cody has attended the Transportation Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and United States Army War College.

Some of his other decorations include the Legion of Merit with four Oak Leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters and the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters.